

2001 Annual Report of the Missouri State Park Advisory Board

Ann Johnson, Chairperson (1998-2003)
Holts Summit

Odell McGowan, Vice-Chairperson (1998-2002)
Creve Coeur

Emily Firebaugh (1998-2003)
Farmington

Ed Stegner (1990-2002)
Pilot Grove

Terry Satterlee (1995-2003)
Kansas City

Andrew Wood (1997-2003)
Neosho

John Weber (1998-2001)
St. Louis

H. William McIntosh (1999-2001)
Kansas City

Don Johnson (Newly appointed 2001-2004)
Festus

E. Sanford Baker (Newly appointed 2001-2004)
Kansas City

Bob Holden, Governor

Stephen M. Mahfood, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Douglas K. Eiken, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Missouri State Park Advisory Board Record of Decisions for 2001

January 26, 2001	Motion made for a Carnahan Memorial in the form of Katy Trail State Park benches. Motion approved.
April 5, 2001	Motion made to enforce the no-jumping criteria concerning a cliff at Johnson's Shut-Ins. Motion approved
September 28, 2001	<p>Election of new officers: Motion made to elect Ann Johnson as chair for the board and Odell McGowan for vice chair. Motion approved.</p> <p>Motion made that the Missouri State Park Advisory Board request that the Division of State Parks affirmatively work toward increasing the participation of minority and women owned businesses as concessionaires in the Missouri State Park system. Motion approved.</p> <p>Motion made that the division research notification to the parks and division when the department has received a request for cell towers but have not passed on the information to the division or the park. Motion approved.</p> <p>Motion made that the division moves forward with the Conceptual Development Plan amendments. Motion approved.</p> <p>Motion made that the board approve moving forward with the accommodations of Native Americans in the Van Meter State Historic Site Repatriation. Motion approved.</p>
November 16, 2001	<p>Motion made to approve the Conceptual Development Plan for Watkins Woolen Mill. Motion approved.</p> <p>Motion made to draft a resolution to reinforce a previous motion, which opposed leasing the airport to the city of Osage Beach, and to seek to close it in seventeen years. Motion approved.</p> <p>Motion made that in the future the director would approve the recommended fee increases and keep the board informed. Motion approved.</p>

Motion made to move ahead with the fee increase package as it had been proposed. Motion approved.

Motion made that the division draft a letter to request additional funds to support the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission in order to reimburse the division for time and money. Motion approved.

Motion made to move forward with the recommendation that would enforce a no fishing rule for Dillard Mill. Fishing would be allowed in specific places from the bank around the millpond and stream. Motion approved.

2001 Accomplishments

Throughout 2001, projects both apparent to the public and those behind the scenes have helped provide a better service to visitors of the state park system and to protect its resources for future generations. The following are some of the highlights:

Gov. Bob Holden announced that he would be **ambassador to state parks** and play an active role in attending and support special programs and events in state parks and historic sites. His involvement included such events as opening day of trout season at Bennett Spring State Park and the opening of the trail at Big Sugar Creek State Park.

The **confluence of the two greatest rivers in the nation** -- the Missouri and Mississippi -- was acquired to become Missouri's newest state park. The acquisition of 202 acres in St. Charles County was made possible by a donation from the Danforth Foundation and the assistance of River Network. The site will be preserved for its historical and geographical significance and will be developed to provide access to the public. Development will include an entrance road, a system of trails, and interpretation.

The first major exhibit sponsored by the new **Missouri Civil Rights Museum** opened Oct. 26. "Marching Toward Justice: The History of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution" told the story of the amendment intended to provide full protection for all Americans. The exhibit also served as a tribute to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The Missouri Civil Rights Museum is being developed within the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center in Kansas City.

The first step in a plan to create a **French Heritage Interpretive Area** in Ste. Genevieve was taken with the contract to purchase property in Ste. Genevieve. The Creole House, which is being proposed to serve as the center for a complex that would interpret French heritage, is located between the Bequette-Ribault house, which is privately owned, and the Amoureux house, which is part of Felix Valle House State Historic Site. A bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to fund a study by the Secretary of the Interior to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the area as a unit of the national park system.

Two significant **Civil War swords** were added to collections in the state park system. The field sword that Gen. Thomas Ewing Jr. used during the Battle of Pilot Knob was donated by his family to Fort Davidson State Historic Site. The presentation sword commissioned in honor of Gen. Thomas A. Harris' leadership during the "Battle of the Hemp Bales" was acquired and is on display at Battle of Lexington State Historic Site. This sword was acquired with the financial assistance from a broad coalition of history organizations.

The **Missouri State Park Foundation** was formally incorporated and had its first organizational meeting. The foundation was established to provide a way for private individuals, businesses and other foundations to efficiently assist the state in the protection, interpretation and preservation of Missouri state parks and historic sites.

A new video was developed about the Missouri state park system. The 12-minute video uses the theme of discovering Missouri through the eyes of early explorers Lewis and Clark. Called "**A Journey of Discovery**," the video will be shown at state parks and historic sites and can be requested by individuals.

In the first agreement of its kind, a management services contract was developed with the Rockwoods School District to operate the swimming pool at **Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park**. The contract went smoothly and resulted in a \$50,000 savings to the division.

The department announced plans to enter into an agreement with the L-A-D Foundation to provide trails in a 61,000-acre section of Pioneer Forest named in honor of Roger Pryor. The department will build and maintain the hiking and backpacking trails in the **Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry** in southeastern Missouri.

Another successful **Wonders of the Outdoor World** National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School was held in October at Roaring River State Park. Planning began for a similar program in May at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park in St. Louis County as part of the division's efforts to reach urban residents.

Requests for information continued to increase. There were 1,438 written requests for information, 3,555 e-mail requests and 3,402 requests from advertisements. The department's toll-free line, which is answered by the Division of State Parks, received 116,347 automated calls (58,912 related to state parks), and 23,515 operator-assisted calls (18,610 related to state parks). The Web site offers approximately 1,360 pages and was accessed 2,890,237 times during the year.

Through its conceptual development plan, **Van Meter State Park** began an effort to refocus the mission of the park from recreation to historic and prehistoric significance. Energy will be directed to becoming the state's platform for Native American interpretation and cultural activities.

In a continual effort to upgrade the division's **Web page**, detailed maps of campgrounds in 20 state parks and historic sites were made available on the Web.

Progress continued on the division's effort to establish a **centralized campground reservation system**. The request for proposal is scheduled to be issued in early 2002 with proposed implementation in November 2002.

The **Allers collection**, the most extensive known collection of artifacts from the Battle of Pilot Knob, was loaned to Fort Davidson State Historic Site and is now on display.

Eight **state park rangers** provided traffic control, safety and security for Gov. Bob Holden's inauguration and associated festivities. State park rangers worked with local and state law enforcement agencies to provide heightened security at government buildings in Jefferson City following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

A five-minute radio show highlighting the activities and opportunities found in state parks and historic sites was developed and offered to radio shows during May, June, July, August and September. The show, called **State Park Discovery**, featured interviews with park and historic site staff and visitors about a different topic every month.

Through the **Landmark Local Parks Program**, state general revenue funds from fiscal year 2001 were made available to communities throughout the state. Sixteen cities and counties received almost \$4 million in funding to enhance outdoor recreation projects.

Fourteen communities and groups received more than \$1.5 million in federal **Land and Water Conservation Fund** grants while 18 communities and groups received more than \$960,000 in federal **Recreational Trails Program** grants.

Missouri Mines State Historic Site received architectural and collections conservation reports developed in association with the Conservation Assessment Project (CAP) grant awarded the site by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Staff will use the reports to assist with design and funding for a collections repository.

A \$100,000 **Cultural Resource Fund** was used to underwrite 24 separate projects at 17 state parks and historic sites and one central office program. The projects included such things as analysis of paint, plaster and mortar at four facilities; purchase of a Thomas Hart Benton print, an

1820s Missouri map and a desk from the state Capitol; conservation treatment of three engravings and one chalk portrait; restoration of several pieces of antique furniture; and a repair of a Civil War uniform.

The **Waste Reduction Committee** continued to encourage participating facilities to find ways of recycling and minimizing waste. Participating facilities include Onondaga Cave, Meramec, Robertsville, Route 66, Castlewood, Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial, Cuivre River, Graham Cave, Roaring River, Table Rock, Big Lake, Lewis and Clark, Wallace, Watkins Mill, Harry S Truman state parks and Battle of Lexington and Bothwell Lodge state historic sites.

In conjunction with a national effort to encourage Missourians to **seek solace in nature**, Missouri state parks and historic sites offered free camping Saturday night and free tours at historic sites on Sunday during the Veterans Day Weekend.

Four **Civil War markers** were dedicated for Order No. 11 (Kansas City), the Battle of Boonville, the Battle of Independence, and the Battle of Marshall.

"Inherently Unequal," an exhibit about education in central Missouri before desegregation, was developed and displayed at the Missouri State Museum. Additional exhibits were developed for use during Black History Month in February.

More than 300 bicyclists from 27 states participated in the **"Take a Ride on the Katy"** bicycle ride. The five-day ride featured Katy Trail State Park.

Meetings to bring together persons interested in the **underground railroad** in Missouri were held in Jefferson City, Kansas City and St. Louis.

An initiative was developed to educate pet owners about health issues and appropriate pet behavior in state parks and historic sites. **Pets as Park Visitors** brochures were distributed and 12 parks are distributing waste bags to encourage owners to pick up after their pets.

Natural resource management in 2001 included restoration projects in tallgrass prairies, savannas, glades and pine and oak woodlands. An allocation of \$156,000 funded projects in 24 state parks. One project at Meramec State Park was so successful that after restoration of its glades and woodlands, the area was designated as the 830-acre Meramec Mosaic Natural Area by the Missouri Natural Areas Committee.

Prescribed fire continues to be an important aspect of many natural environments. Staff conducted 94 burns on over 9,000 acres of land in 20 state parks. This benefited some of the most important of Missouri's natural landscapes, wildlife and plant life including rare or threatened species.

The contract for extending the joint training agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Missouri was approved. Under terms of the agreement, the **Joseph Jaeger Academy**, which is used as a training forum for park and historic site staff, will continue for another three years.

Progress on a multi-year project to convert the **division's artifact collections** from a manual to a computerized system has been steady. Approximately 14,000 artifacts in these collections have been entered in the database. Staff have estimated that there may be up to 100,000 artifacts in the system. Digital images and more accurate descriptions of these artifacts make it more complete for staff and researchers alike.

All commissioned personnel will now have 600 hours of law enforcement certification. The division entered into an agreement with the University of Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute to provide the additional 130 hours needed to **upgrade law enforcement personnel**.

Conceptual development plans, which guide the long-range development for a park or site, were developed for Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site and Big Sugar Creek State Park. Work began or continued on plans for Morris State Park, Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park, Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Van Meter State Park, and the area at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. For the first time, the proposed plans for Van Meter State Park were made available for public viewing and comment on the division's Web page.

The department acquired **1,032 acres of land** through trade, donation or acquisition. This included 400 acres surrounding the summit of the mountain at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park; 111 acres at the entrance of Ha Ha Tonka State Park; 3.70 miles extending Katy Trail State Park further into Sedalia; 11 acres at Washington State Park containing a historic lead furnace, and three parcels adjacent to Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site that are central to fulfilling the conceptual development plan.

The department and Southeast Missouri State University cosponsored the fifth annual **Historic Preservation Field School** in Ste. Genevieve. Eleven students undertook original research and workshop activities at the department's Kern/Delassus House, which is a part of Felix Valle State Historic Site. Activities ranged from archaeological excavation to paint analysis while learning historic preservation techniques.

Lake of the Ozarks State Park hosted the **National Cave Gating Workshop** for cave managers from across the country to demonstrate design and construction of gates to protect bats and resources.

Twenty bison calves were born at **Prairie State Park**, bringing the herd total to 76. The bison and elk are used for interpretation of the prairie as well as a resource management tool.

The first seasonal naturalist was hired for **Long Branch State Park**, which allowed the park to establish its first interpretive program.

The State Park Ranger Program developed a **campground watch** proposal to increase visitor safety. The program will be implemented for the 2002 camping season.

The **Friends of the Anderson House**, a new group made up primarily of Civil War reenactors, sponsored several weekend special events at Battle of Lexington State Historic Site. Visitors to the site can now see period uniforms, clothing and activities of the mid-19th century.

New exhibits at **Bollinger Mill State Historic Site** tell the story of the mill and the milling process.

Through the **Volunteer in Parks (VIP)** program, 300 people volunteered as campground hosts, contributing more than 87,101 hours. More than 993 volunteers in other categories (aides, trail workers, interpreters, etc.) contributed more than 32,007 hours of volunteer time.

A significant **land trade** was completed with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) that will benefit both agencies in their operation and natural resource management. The Department of Natural Resources received approximately 340 acres at Sam A. Baker State Park, Battle of Athens State Historic Site, Finger Lakes State Park, Taum Sauk Mountain State Park and Lewis and Clark State Park. MDC received 198 acres adjacent to Sam A. Baker State Park, Finger Lakes State Park and Thousand Hills State Park.

An agreement was formalized to allow the **Friends of Arrow Rock** to lease the Lawless/Barger farmstead at Arrow Rock State Historic Site in order to use it as an interpretive platform. The friends group will be able to expend funds made available to them from a benefactor to preserve and restore the house.

Architectural and conservation assessments were completed for the Pommer-Gentner House at **Deutschheim State Historic Site**, thanks to a Conservation Assessment Project grant awarded to the site by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Sons of the Confederate Veterans placed a monument marking the south rifle burial pit at **Fort Davidson State Historic Site** in a presentation made during the re-enactment of the Battle of Pilot Knob.

The core urban property of the **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site** expanded with the purchase of nine vacant city lots and a tenth lot with a late Victorian townhouse. The property allowed for visual buffer and the opportunity to expand urban programming as recommended in the site's conceptual development plan.

Staff from **Rock Bridge Memorial State Park** participated on the Southern Boone County Karst Team, which is studying watershed issues in the area, including how they may affect the park.

More than 20,000 school children took **guided tours** of the state Capitol in the spring of 2001, making it one of the busiest tour seasons on record.

Information kiosks were developed and placed in five Division of Tourism welcome centers. The new kiosks will provide travelers with information about state parks and historic sites.

More than 186,000 people attended more than 261 **special events** in 50 state parks and historic sites throughout the state. These ranged from children's festivals and wildflower walks to Civil War re-enactments and apple butter making demonstrations.

A new 60-page **full-color brochure** containing information on all state parks and historic sites was published and distributed. The effort continued to produce individual brochures for state parks and historic sites in a new format. By the end of 2001, new brochures had been produced for 63 state parks and historic sites.

TrailLink 2001, the 3rd International Trail and Greenway Conference was held in St. Louis and featured field trips at Castlewood State Park and Katy Trail State Park, and a float trip on the Meramec River.

At **Grand Gulf State Park**, a flagpole was dedicated in honor of Dorothy Ellis, a long-time supporter of the park.

New **concession contracts** were awarded at Arrow Rock State Historic Site and Harry S Truman State Park. At Arrow Rock, the contract to operate "The Tavern" was awarded for the first time to Mike and Mary Duncan. At Harry S Truman, the contract to operate the marina was awarded again to the Steenburgen family, who have operated the marina for the last 20 years.

For the second year, special field trips to state parks were held during the **Legislative Black Caucus Conference** at the Lake of the Ozarks. These trips included horseback riding and pontoon boat rides from Lake of the Ozarks State Park, and tours at Ozark Caverns and Ha Ha Tonka State Park. All trips were filled to capacity.

Eleven parks were recommended for **special hunts** to reduce overpopulations of deer. Parks recommended for first time hunts included Stockton State Park, St. Francois State Park and Meramec State Park.

A new **centralized uniform procurement program** resulted in improved uniform management efficiency and enhanced employee image. The program included a new more casual look for many frontline staff and an employee allowance and tracking system.

A new **procurement card program** allows for easier purchasing by field staff. With the card, staff can choose from a larger pool of vendors, making it possible to obtain better prices.

The new card also allows for more efficient payment processing, benefiting both the state and the vendor.

Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site was featured on the television special "**Homes of our Heritage.**"

The first **cultural resource management chapter** for a general management plan was completed for Castlewood State Park. Several other facility managers began preparations for their cultural resource management chapters.

Interpretive plans were reviewed for Ozark Caverns at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Sam A. Baker State Park, Bennett Spring State Park and Trail of Tears State Park. The interpretive plan for Graham Cave State Park was completed.

The annual **interpreter training** was held at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. Seasonal naturalists as well as tourist assistants attended training this year, which also included staff from Louisiana state parks.

Staff from the **Missouri State Museum** began development of two small traveling exhibits on Lewis and Clark. The exhibits will emphasize Missouri's portion of the Corps of Discovery and will be made available to museums, county historical societies, public libraries and other places for a nominal shipping fee.

New **employee orientation** was expanded to include sessions on customer service, work ethic and working with the e-mail and Internet. A new **training program** was developed for maintenance employees on the use of many different kinds of equipment. The main focus was consistency throughout the state.

State parks provided opportunity for **scientific studies** through 42 new research projects initiated by Midwest universities. Included were scientific collections of plants and animals, rare species surveys and stream water-quality investigations, and studies of park natural history or ecology.

A comprehensive inventory of **rare and endangered species** catalogued 338 records of the 188 species of special concern known to inhabit state parks. Prairie (19), Cuivre River (17), Meramec (13), Hawn (8), Trail of Tears (8), Big Oak Tree (8), Sam A. Baker (7) and Roaring River (7) state parks top the list for highest numbers of state-listed species in the park system.

The Division of State Parks at a Glance

Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2001

Total operating and capital improvement expenditures (less fringe benefits) \$41,623,943

Revenues from operations (including Historic Preservation Revolving Fund)
\$7,981,374

Revenues from dedicated sales tax
\$37,402,558

Size: 82 state parks and historic sites

Acreage: 138,508

Visitation: 18,005,000

Employment: 633 full-time employees
118 seasonal employees

To reach us:

1-800-334-6946
1-800-379-2419 (TDD)

Web site: www.mostateparks.com

E-mail: moparks@mail.dnr.state.mo.us

Address:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

2001 Major Improvement Projects

The year of 2001 brought many significant improvement and construction projects within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks. Following are some of the highlights.

A new trail providing access to **Big Sugar Creek State Park** was opened Nov. 3. The three-mile Ozark Chinquapin Trail allows visitors to experience the distinctive natural features found in the park's 1,613-acre Elk River Breaks Natural Area. The trail is the first facility open at the park, which is still in the development stage.

A new equestrian campground at **Sam A. Baker State Park** was opened in May. The campground has 21 campsites, 10 of which have electricity. To provide access from the campground, a new 2.5-mile section of equestrian trail was developed and leads to Mudlick Trail.

A new overlook at **Taum Sauk Mountain State Park** was dedicated Oct. 20. The overlook has been developed along the main road of the park and offers spectacular views of the surrounding St. Francois Mountains. The overlook also has exhibits that provide information about the mountains and the area's glades.

Major renovations to the **Missouri-Kansas-Texas depot** along Katy Trail State Park in Sedalia were completed. The Sedalia Chamber of Commerce is now occupying the building following an official key ceremony in September.

Visitors now have a new place to picnic at **Robertsville State Park** following the dedication of a new day-use area. The new area includes two picnic shelters with a patio between them; the shelters may be rented individually or together for a larger gathering. Other facilities in the new area include picnic sites, a playground made of recycled material and two restrooms.

Work began on development at **Morris State Park** following the completion of the park's conceptual development plan. To preserve the park's natural integrity while allowing public access, development will be minimal and will include a two-mile hiking trail, parking area, restroom and interpretive information.

A major renovation was completed at **Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site**. The interior of the home was changed to reflect more accurately the 1870 to 1889 period when Pershing lived in the home. Other work included replacing the fireplace and chimney, foundation work and exterior painting.

The campground at **Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park** was completely renovated. Renovations included redoing the campsites, and constructing a new shower house and sanitary disposal station.

An open house was held at the **New Rosebud Cafe**, a part of Scott Joplin House State Historic Site. The cafe recreates the turn-of-the-century establishment that once operated in the area. The structure will serve as a performance venue for the site, which preserves the home of legendary ragtime composer, Scott Joplin.

A new 2.5 mile section of **Katy Trail State Park** through the heart of Sedalia opened in June. The new section allows riders to follow a former railroad right-of-way from the Missouri-Kansas-Texas depot to the Highway 65 bridge, where it links with the already developed section of trail near the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

The house at **Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site** was repaired and repainted. The work included repairing the porch and other woodwork, removing the lead-based paint and repainting

the house with latex paint to match the color and texture of the original paint. The house remains white with green trim as it was historically.

The popular fishing bridge known as the "whistle" bridge at **Bennett Spring State Park** was repaired and reopened. The bridge was widened by eight feet, with a pedestrian lane on both sides and a lane for traffic in the center. The renovation allows better fishing access from the bridge as well as providing for much safer passage by both vehicles and pedestrians.

Work began on repairing the hatchery bridge at **Roaring River State Park**. Work involves rebuilding half of the bridge, shoreline improvements and stabilization, developing parking spots for persons with disabilities and building a sidewalk on both sides of the river. The project is scheduled to be completed by March 1, 2002, and will provide easier fishing access for visitors.

The baggage express building located adjacent to the Missouri-Kansas-Texas depot along **Katy Trail State Park** in Sedalia was converted into a public restroom and ranger office.

The campground at **Onondaga Cave State Park** was closed in the fall for renovations. The project will include renovating the campground, increasing the number of electrical sites and work to reduce flooding in the campground.

Major day-use renovations were completed at **Table Rock State Park**. Work included 25 new picnic sites, new grills, tables and drinking fountains, new parking areas, concrete walkways and improved traffic flow to the boat ramps.

In May, fire completely destroyed the office and maintenance facility at **Harry S Truman State Park**. A temporary office was established while plans continued to build a new office/maintenance complex.

An electronic gate was installed at the south entrance of **Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site** to create a safer and quieter environment for overnight guests. Also during the year, all historic buildings were repainted, a new playground was constructed, and major repairs were begun after a micro burst damaged the mill roof.

A new fee collection booth was built at **Bennett Spring State Park** for more efficient operation of the campground.

A new paved hiking and bicycling walkway was constructed at **Sam A. Baker State Park**. The one-and-one-half mile trail connects campground #1 with the park store.

Through a cooperative effort with the Missouri Department of Conservation, a 400-foot log jam was removed from Locust Creek in **Pershing State Park**.

Improvements at **Thousand Hills State Park** included upgrading electrical sites in the campground and a road relocation that will allow a circular traffic pattern and the development of a hiking and bicycle lane.

A new day-use shelter was constructed at **Cuivre River State Park**, converting a borrow site for the Lake Lincoln dam into an attractive day-use area. Following extensive research of original Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) documents, original gravel paths between buildings at Camp Sherwood Forest were replaced.

At **Wakonda State Park**, a new boat ramp was built at Wakonda Lake and a new trail system was developed in the park.

Cooperative agreements at **Long Branch State Park** will mean improved facilities for visitors. The park reached an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cost-share an accessible fishing dock, and with Long Branch Lake Association to cost-share a campground playground. Both facilities should be installed in 2002.

The 11-mile bicycle trail at **St. Joe State Park** was repaired and resurfaced. A new 1.7-mile section of trail connects the park to the city of Farmington.

Info-depots were constructed along Katy Trail State Park at Windsor, Clinton, Calhoun and Green Ridge and work continues on depots at Sedalia, Clifton City, Pilot Grove and Boonville. These info-depots provide information to trail users.

Starboard Corp., the concessionaires for the marina at **Table Rock State Park** added new docks and a new store, which expanded its retail program and customer service area for rentals.

Upgrades in **water and sewer systems** were completed in numerous state parks, including major work at Roaring River State Park and connection with the community sewer at Arrow Rock State Historic Site, which means the site no longer relies on an antiquated wastewater system.

A small **AmeriCorps** crew at Cuivre River State Park helped put in benches and tie rails at overlooks along the equestrian trail and helped with exotic species control.

Work continued to make facilities **accessible to persons with disabilities**. This included any new construction and renovations of many existing facilities. Renovations included work at Camp Colborn at Mark Twain State Park, the offices at Bollinger Mill and Dillard Mill state historic sites, access to Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site, and amphitheaters at Lake of the Ozarks State Park.

A new **shower house** was constructed at Wallace State Park. Major renovations were completed at Bennett Spring State Park and begun at Roaring River State Park

Awards and Recognitions

Many individuals, groups and organizations received awards or were recognized in some way during 2001.

The Missouri state park system was recognized as one of the best state park systems in the country, placing as one of the four finalists in the 2001 **National Gold Medal and State Park Awards Program**. The awards are presented to communities throughout the United States for excellence in park and recreation administration and for outstanding service to the challenged.

The **Missouri Parks Association** recognized four employees with State Park Employee of the Year awards. Employees receiving the awards included Racine Myers, park maintenance worker at Prairie State Park; Jean King, clerk typist at Sam A. Baker State Park; Kurt Senn, assistant site administrator at Mastodon State Historic Site; and Jenny (Graham) Frazier, real estate/contracts manager in the Planning and Development Program.

Wes Johnson, superintendent of Van Meter State Park at the time of his death, received the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' **Natural Areas Stewardship Award** for 2001. He was recognized for his contribution toward the management and preservation of Missouri's natural landscapes and diversity at Van Meter State Park.

The **Locust Creek Riparian Trail** in Pershing State Park received a national award by the Coalition for Recreation Trails, one of eight awarded in the nation. The trail was recognized for "outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds in the category of construction/design" for 2001.

The following individuals were honored with the Division of State Parks **Masterpiece Awards** in the year 2001: Willie Akers, Montauk State Park; Anna Persell, Wallace State Park; Denise King, Onondaga Cave State Park; Maggie Crowley, Knob Noster State Park; Leon Buschjost, Planning and Development Program; Barbara Hofstetter, Operations and Resource Management Program; Paul Nelson, Operations and Resource Management Program; Jennifer (Graham) Frazier, Planning and Development Program; Jim Crabtree, Planning and Development Program; Beverly Jones, Bennett Spring State Park; Booker Rucker, Cultural Resources Program; Richard LaChance, Planning and Development Program; Gerald Phillips, Danny Prier, Raymond Lake, Mike Headrick, Mike Weaver, Tim Mizer, Jerry Gideon, and

Darryl Hartung, South Construction Unit; Jeff Higgins, Pershing State Park; Deloris West, Battle of Lexington State Historic Site; Don Fink, Sam A. Baker State Park; Bill Vollmer, First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site; Roxie Campbell, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park; Jody Stotsky, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park; Linwood Carman, Stockton State Park; Cheryl Elliston, Planning and Development Program; George Kastler, Interpretation Program; and Judy Looten, Financial and Information Resource Management.

The **Association of Missouri Interpreters** (AMI) named Cyndi Evans, naturalist at Prairie State Park, distinguished interpreter of the year. Jean Freeman, seasonal interpreter at Thousand Hills State Park, received the under graduate scholarship award from AMI. AMI named Christopher Crabtree, seasonal interpreter at Prairie State Park, distinguished seasonal interpreter of the year.